

## Comprehensive Plan Prescreening Meeting Questions and Answers

The City of Johnstown's Comprehensive Plan, now two decades old, is recognized as outdated and no longer aligned with current needs. Primary funding for the project is sourced from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a Municipal Assistance Program grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

1. Question: What are the other major projects underway in the city?

*Answer: The city of Johnstown is currently engaged in several significant projects. Alongside the RAISE grant initiative, which encompasses updates to the train station and incline plane, we are also focused on revitalizing Central Park and enhancing the streetscape along Main Street.*

2. Question: Could you elaborate on grassroots efforts within Johnstown?

*Answer: Certainly. Our grassroots efforts involve extensive public engagement, such as soliciting community feedback on the Central Park project. Additionally, Nina, our Planning and DCED director, is collaborating with various organizations across neighborhoods, schools, and after-school programs to ensure inclusive participation in our initiatives.*

3. Question: What other project proposals require financial support?

*Answer: We are actively pursuing multiple projects that necessitate financial backing. Presently, the Camtran and Incline Plane projects are part of the RAISE grant endeavor, though the Central Park and streetscape initiatives are currently prioritized. Furthermore, Nina is exploring additional grant opportunities to support these endeavors.*

4. Question: Who will comprise the steering committee for this RFP?

*Answer: The composition of the steering committee is open to suggestions. Priority will be given to ensuring representation that fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the decision-making process.*

5. Question: Who is responsible for developing policies within the comprehensive plan?

*Answer: While the city council plays a pivotal role in policy development, it is imperative to broaden participation to ensure inclusive and equitable policymaking. We advocate for involving a diverse array of stakeholders in this process.*

6. Question: Where will meetings be held?

*Answer: The city is flexible regarding meeting preferences, whether in person or virtual, to accommodate the needs and preferences of participants.*

7. Question: What are the community's perceptions of the planning efforts?

*Answer: Our primary objective is to ensure that the community feels heard and actively involved in the planning process. Soliciting and incorporating community input is integral to our approach.*

8. Question: How does the community perceive the city?

*Answer: Enhancing visibility and community engagement is a priority for the city. We aim to achieve this through transparent communication channels, regular events, collaborations with local entities, and various other initiatives outlined in our strategic plan.*

9. Question: What are the anticipated outcomes of the comprehensive plan?

*Answer: A key outcome of the comprehensive plan is the update of zoning regulations, addressing outdated practices and promoting community cohesion. Additionally, utilizing robust surveys will provide valuable data for informed decision-making and help mitigate biases.*

10. Question: How will communication between neighborhood groups be improved?

*Answer: We are leveraging existing neighborhood organizations as platforms to foster community connections. Nina, as our Planning and DCED Director, is actively developing strategies to bridge divides and promote unity among neighborhoods.*

11. Question: What is the city's planning process capacity?

*Answer: We are collaborating with partnering organizations to expand planning opportunities and enhance our capacity to address community needs effectively.*

12. Question: Regarding the comprehensive plan's reference to scientific surveys, can you clarify?

*Answer: Apologies for any confusion. We will be utilizing robust surveys instead, employing diverse sampling methods and comprehensive questionnaires to ensure accurate and meaningful data collection.*

13. Question: Is there a timeline for funding?

*Answer: Funding deadlines are not directly associated with the deadlines of the comprehensive plan.*

14. Question: Will neighboring municipalities participate in the planning process?

*Answer: While participation from neighboring municipalities varies, we are committed to strengthening these collaborative relationships going forward.*

15. Question: Could you provide more information on the city's branding strategy?

*Answer: Certainly. For more information on our branding strategy, please visit [<https://www.visitjohnstownpa.com>].*